

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

A Partial Albino Junco.—On April 18, 1930, I took in a trap a junco which appeared quite different from usual. Upon careful examination, it seemed to be an ordinary Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) showing partial albinism. Two large white spots under the eyes were connected by a line extending over the bill, and the throat was white. The bird was banded No. C21839 and released. Albino juncos must be rather common, though I have had none before in banding some 700 of them, nor do I recall seeing any in the field.—O. A. STEVENS, *Fargo, N. Dak.*

A Starling Killed by Lightning.—During a severe electrical storm on September 14, 1930, a large elm at Peterboro, N. Y., was splintered by lightning. Following the storm an adult Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), which apparently had taken refuge in the tree and became a victim of the bolt, was found under the tree. The bird's belly was ripped open so that the intestines protruded. I have never before heard of a bird being struck by lightning, and think it rather an unusual occurrence.—CHAS. J. SPIKER, *Canastota, N. Y.*

Snowy Egrets in Des Moines County, Iowa.—During August, 1930, a flock of some thirty Snowy Egrets (*Egretta candidissima candidissima*) visited Ray Lake, a small, partly tree-bordered body of water in northeastern Des Moines County, Iowa, normally not deep and at the time conspicuously shallow owing to the prolonged drought. They arrived on August 1, the entire group, apparently, remaining in the immediate locality until August 15, after which their numbers began to decrease. By August 20 all but five had departed, while only one could be found on the 24th, this last individual taking leave three or four days later. The birds were not particularly wary, and frequently permitted quite close approach. There had been no previous record of Snowy Egrets at Ray Lake over a rather careful observation period that included the past ten years.—H. M. HOLLAND, *Galesburg, Ill.*

The Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks Hybridize.—During the past fifty years the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*) has considerably extended its range from the Missouri River region to the westward in Nebraska, along the principal water courses. And, meantime, the Black-headed Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus papago*) has been pushing eastward along the same streams. As a result the two species have met, and now occur together along the upper Elkhorn River west of Norfolk, and along the Platte, Little Blue, and Republican Rivers, between the 98th and 99th meridians, as well as in some of the wooded intervening territory. That these two species sometimes hybridize where they thus meet on the same ground, is shown by two adult male specimens taken at Inland, Clay County, by A. M. Brooking, the first one on May 18, 1920, and the second one on May 24, 1923. Both have the normal plumage of the adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, except that the chest and breast are buffy cinnamon, this diluting the normally rose red chest patch to a dull buffy red, and extending below it across the breast as a broad, pure buffy cinnamon band. The areas on the rump and upper tail coverts that are white in the Rose-breasted Grosbeak are pale buffy in the hybrid birds.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Neb.*